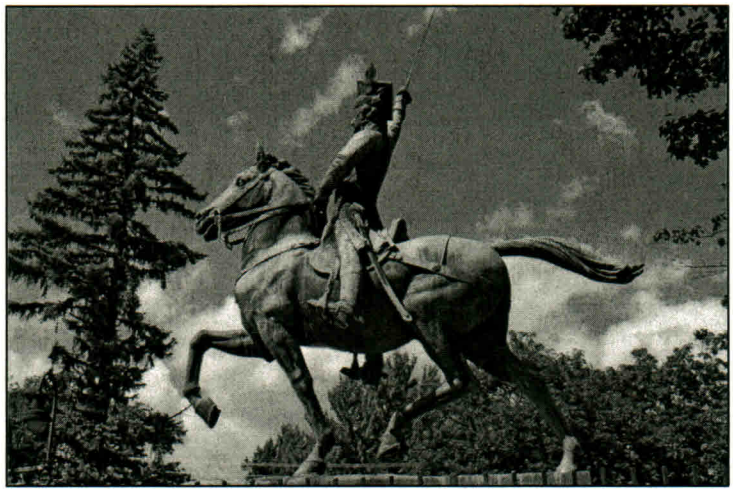
General Casimir Pulaski Monument Restoration Project

Working Notes – February 28, 2017



Purpose: The purpose of this project is to repair and restore the General Casimir Pulaski Monument and related elements located in Pulaski Park, in Manchester, New Hampshire in a manner that meets the highest standards of historic preservation.

Need: The bronze equestrian statue, the granite base, the bronze plaques and ornaments, and the iron fence are in need of cleaning and repair. The extent and details of the work that will need to be done to restore the monument and to protect it from further damage will be determined.

Significance: The Casimir Pulaski Monument is significant as it is the centerpiece of an important municipal park in downtown Manchester, located between Bridge, Union, High and Pine streets. The park, which has been in use since the late 1830s, is situated near a densely settled residential neighborhood and within two blocks of Elm Street, the city's main commercial center. The park and monument are highly visible to passing vehicles and pedestrians. It is well-used by local inhabitants, including young people who take advantage of the basketball court on the west end of the park.

The monument is also significant because of its long association with the Polish population in Manchester. A small number of immigrants from Poland began arriving in Manchester in 1888. Larger numbers settled in the city after WWI due to economic reasons. There was high unemployment in Poland after the war, so it was attractive for people to move to Manchester to work in the mills. However, the textile factories in Manchester would begin to decline by 1920, so many Polish immigrants were forced to find work elsewhere. By 1921 there were 5,000 Poles in Manchester. This number represented about 6-7% of the city's population.

There are two Polish-American churches active in Manchester today, St. Hedwig's Roman Catholic Church and Holy Trinity Polish National Church (the cathedral of the Eastern Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church). Both parishes are located within a few blocks of Pulaski Park. General Casimir Pulaski was a Polish immigrant. He was a hero of the American Revolution honored by all Americans, and particularly by the Polish-Americans. Pulaski Day is celebrated each year with a special ceremony held at the General Casimir Pulaski Monument in Manchester.

The monument is also of importance to the Franco-American community of Manchester because the sculptor, Lucien-Hippolyte Gosselin, was of French-Canadian heritage. His public sculptures in Manchester are some of the most artistically significant works on public view in the city. The Franco-American Centre in Manchester owns examples of some of Gosselin's small works. The Currier Museum of Art in Manchester has at least one of Gosselin's small pieces in its collection. The monument is also of significance as a war memorial for the Revolutionary War (represented by the figure of General Casimir Pulaski), and for World War II (represented by the plaque honoring members of the local TTK Society and Club, a Polish-American organization, who died in that war).

Another factor that adds to the significance of the monument is that it is a product of the WPA Federal Art Project that existed as an important government initiative that supported artists during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Also, the monument is important as an outstanding work of art that was influenced by the stylistic traditions of equestrian monuments that developed over the centuries in Europe and in the United States. The General Casimir Pulaski Monument is a rare 20th century example of this type of monument in the United States, as by the time monument was created, the convention of honoring historical figures with equestrian monuments had nearly died out.

Historical Background: This classic equestrian statue located in Pulaski Park in Manchester, New Hampshire, depicts Revolutionary War hero Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski (1745-1779) sitting erect in his saddle, holding his sword in the air with his right hand, with his left hand on the horse's reins, as if leading a charge into battle. He is shown wearing a Polish military uniform with boots and an overcoat with elaborate embroidery and fringe on the front. His hat is topped by a tilted mortarboard and ornamented by a badge and feather on the left side. His scabbard hangs from his belt on this left side. The horse is depicted in mid-stride, with the right foreleg raised, and the tail flying. The sculpture is set on a rectangular granite base adorned with four bronze wreaths. The memorial is surrounded by a high iron fence on a granite and concrete curb.

Pulaski Park was originally Tremont Park, one of the original city parks that were part of the city plan created by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in 1838. The park was revitalized in 1933 and dedicated as Pulaski Park to honor the Polish-American community of Manchester. This was a project of the (Works Progress Administration) WPA established under President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression.

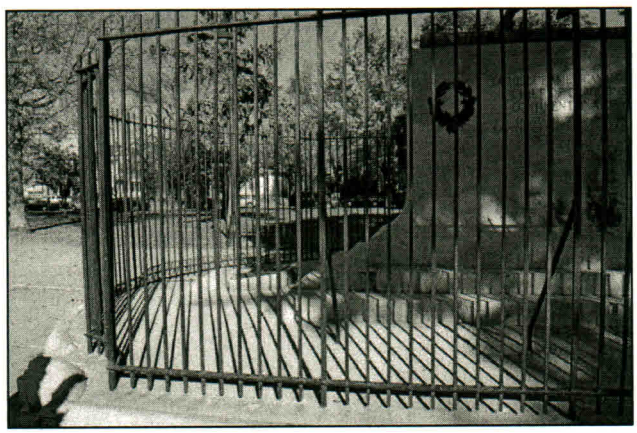
The Casimir Pulaski monument was dedicated on August 21, 1938. The monument project was created under the auspices of the WPA Federal Art Project. The sculptor was Lucien-Hippolyte Gosselin (1883-1940). He was born in Whitefield, New Hampshire. His family, of French-Canadian heritage, moved to Manchester two years later. His father worked for the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. His mother's side of the family was artistic, and included the famous French-Canadian sculptor Philip Hebert of Montreal. As a young man Mr. Gosselin studied with local artist Emile Maupas and then lived in Paris for five years where he studied at the Académie Julian. He returned to Manchester in 1916. From 1920 until his death (in 1940), he headed up the sculpture department at the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences (now the New Hampshire Institute of Art).

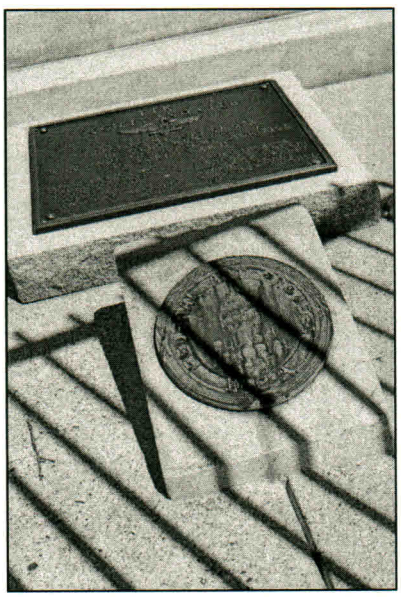
From his workshop in Manchester, Mr. Gosselin produced sculpture in a wide range of scales and materials, from small medallions to massive public monuments. Gosselin's other works in the city include the Victory Monument in Victory Park that commemorates World War I, which was dedicated on May 30, 1929.

Elements of the Pulaski Monument Restoration Project:
Equestrian sculpture
Plaques
Granite base with carved lettering and four bronze wreath details
WWII Memorial plaque (installed on the granite base)
WPA Federal Art Project plaque (installed on granite base)
Iron Fencing – eagle detail on gate

Scope and cost of the Pulaski Monument Restoration Project:
To be determined

For further information please contact Aurore Eaton auroreeaton@aol.com or Patricia Howard pathoward@mindspring.com





Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski Monument Restoration Project

P.O. Box 3402
Manchester, NH 03105-3402

NEWS RELEASE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017 - CELEBRATE PULASKI DAY IN MANCHESTER WITH THE POLISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

This year Manchester celebrates Pulaski Day with a full schedule of activities involving the Polish-American community. The events are open to the public, and everyone is invited to participate. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a Mass at the Holy Trinity Polish National Cathedral, 166 Pearl Street. At 10:30 a.m. a formal ceremony will take place at the Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski monument in the center of Pulaski Park (Bridge and Pine Streets). The featured speakers will be Aurore Eaton and Patricia Howard, local historic preservation volunteers, who will talk briefly about the history of the monument, and plans for its restoration. At 11:30 a.m. a folk mass with polka music will take place at St. Hedwig Roman Catholic Church, 147 Walnut Street. At 1:00 p.m. there will be a dinner with Polish food, and more polka music, in St. Hedwig's parish hall. The church services and the ceremony in Pulaski Park are free and open to the public. Tickets for the dinner are $15, and must be purchased in advance. Please call (603) 622-4524 or (603) 668-5087 for tickets and further information.

The former Tremont Square, a municipal park established in 1848, was improved and rededicated in 1933 as Pulaski Park, in honor of the Polish hero of the American Revolution, Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski (1745-1779), known as the "father of the American cavalry." The Pulaski monument was dedicated in 1936 as part of the WPA (Works Progress Administration) Federal Arts Project. The bronze equestrian statue on a granite pedestal was the creation of artist Lucien-Hippolyte Gosselin (1883-1940), an instructor at the Manchester Institute of Arts & Sciences (now the New Hampshire Institute of Art). The monument is suffering from decades of exposure to the elements and is in need of repair. The work necessary to rehabilitate the monument (including the statue, the base, and the iron fence surrounding it) will be conducted by expert contractors under the supervision of the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Division of the City of Manchester Department of Public Works. The project is also receiving support from the City of Manchester Heritage Commission.

A campaign is underway to raise the estimated $100,000 necessary to fully restore the monument. Donations can be made by check, payable to the "City of Manchester" (with "Pulaski Monument Project" in the memo line), and mailed to:

Pulaski Monument Project
PO Box 3402
Manchester, NH 03105-3402

Contributions to this project may be considered tax-deductible in accordance with Section 170(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, as Manchester is a political subdivision of the State of New Hampshire, and the funds received will be used strictly for this charitable effort. For further information about the Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski Restoration Project, please contact the project volunteers:

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